

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for grasping, holding, stabilizing, and selectively releasing tissue with minimal damage to the tissue. The system can further include a device that signals entry into the epidural space. A tubular member is provided having at a distal tip an annular surface surrounding a terminal port and at least one barb projecting at an angle from the annular surface for grasping and controlling the tissue. Each barb is formed having a sharp edge configured to grasp the tissue as the tubular member is rotated about its longitudinal axis. One implementation of the system includes a plurality of unidirectional barbs spaced around the annular surface. The system can further include an indicator mechanism that gives a visual and a tactile indication of when the tubular member, such as a cannula, encounters and penetrates tissue. The system facilitates the appropriate placement of an epidural or subdural catheter or patch of any kind.

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